alto-relievo, representing some notable event in the herd's life, in the style of Giotto's Baptistery doors. "Doors," said Michael Angelo, "worthy to be the gates of Paradise." These bronzes should be affixed to the pedestal in an *artificial* manner; not an absurd cutting up of the stone into carpenter's work, of framed rails, and styles, and panels.

I am dictating this letter from a bed of sickness, and you will therefore excuse my adducing farther arguments in support of these views. I have no doubt but that yourself or some of your intelligent correspondents will do so in a far abler manner than myself.

I am, Sir, &c.,

WILLIAM BARDWELL.

4, Great Queen-street.

FOREIGN ARCHITECTURAL AND COLLATERAL INTELLIGENCE.

Munich. — Porcelain Paintings. — King Ludwig of Bavaria, on his assuming the reins of government, conceived the idea of having the pictures of the royal collections, especially those of the Pinakothek, reproduced on china, so that if by any chance, those invaluable and unique art-specimens should be destroyed, posterity should not miss them. In the first instance, the pictures were copied on vases and plates, to form a sort of show-service for royal usage. Thus, some vases and seventy-two plate-formed specimens arose—which, however, soon made room for a more appropriate form, viz., *tablets* of different size and form, in accordance with the originals, which they were destined to represent. In these tablets, especially, (there are ninety-four ready at present), we see all manners of painting, all art-schools and their prominent masters represented in a worthy form. Their value is, as matter of course, very diverse, according to the artists and circumstances by and under which they were made. As one of the best, shines the portrait of Albrecht Dürer from the Pinakothek, made by Mr. *Christian Adler*, who also copied previously a portrait of Raffaelle in the same way. Mr. Adler has been employed in the royal china manufactory since 1811, and may be said to represent the element of historical painting in this novel art-branch. The rare force and tint-depth of the Dürer original, was difficult to be rendered on china—but for genius nothing is difficult, save to be commonplace. The plates painted previously by Mr. Adler after Leonardo da Vinci, Correggio, Pietro Perugino, and Raffaelle, are of similar beauty and perfection. Besides Mr. Adler, the royal china establishment possesses also other distinguished artists, as Mr. Nachtmann, the flower-painter; Mr. Heinzmann, the landscaper; Lefeubure and Wanbenger, animal-painters, &c. As the introducing art in the sober and guarded enjoyments of life, is a topic so much dilated upon at present, we may mention a table-service of china, ordered by King Ludwig—original in thought and execution. Amongst richest as well as choicest ornaments in gold and colours, we behold painted, grey in grey, on vases, plates, and dishes, of truly antique shape—copies of the finest and choicest *sculptures* of the Glyptothek; a set of specimens, to which none may be found equal in the whole history of art and industry.—[The improvement of the porcelain manufacture in England, is a subject we have much at heart. We shall seek an early opportunity to refer to the use of porcelain in buildings.]

Embellishments of Berlin.—The large space in the Thiergarten, hitherto used for military manœuvres, and, therefore, called the Marsfield since the time of Frederic the Great, is now to be appropriated to more reasonable purposes. It is to be partly built over by large structures, partly converted into parks. The king has had constructed, amongst others, some houses in the Italian style, in which the collections of Count Raczynski and Cornelius are to be placed.

Roman Structures discovered by Railway Excavations in Bavaria.—The works which have been undertaken at Augsburg for constructing a central terminus have been of very great extent; from only forty-four acres of the Rosenauberg, 10,000,000 cubic feet of earth have been removed, and used for the great embankment on the Wertach—whose main height is 27½ feet, its basis 172 feet, and its central breadth 36 feet 7 inches. At the slight depth of 6 feet a Roman pavement was found, and at once created great hopes, as this was the very site of the Roman *Augusta Vindelicorum*. The road from Augsburg to Pfersee was also an ancient road, along which sepulchral monuments had been placed, but thrown into the Wertach after the battle of A. 271, under Emperor Aurelian. The sepulchral monuments, some of them of good workmanship, are made of the marble of the Oberland. Amongst the other relics found, that of a sepulchral lamp, in the shape of a fine lady's foot, is remarkable. On the so-called Nordendong graves-field, also, 365 sepulchres of Romans, as well as of the aborigines (the *Vindelicii*) were found. These relics are deposited in the Augsburg Museum.

Arts, and Royal Speeches!—In reference to the building of a new picture-gallery, and other art-grants made by the Saxon Chambers, H.M. the King especially expressed his thanks in the speech from the throne, delivered at the closing of the late session of the legislature. These were H.M.'s words:—"I thank you for the readiness with which you not only voted the means for the current expenses of the state, but also those destined for the better preservation of a worthful treasure of art."

Completion of the Dome of Florence.—The Art-Union of Munich have, of late, exhibited the plan of Mr. J. Müller, a Swiss architect, for completing the façade of the above cathedral. The idea has occupied much of the attention both of the government and the artists of Florence; and it seemed that the Italian public inclined towards the plan proposed by Mr. Architect *Matas*, of Ancona. A glance at this plan, however, shews that Mr. Matas has, it is true, adhered to the general style of this ancient structure, but confounded the character of the *main* front with the lateral ones. The plan of Mr. Müller, on the other hand, is the produce of a deep study of the spirit, tendency, and form of mediæval Italian architecture; and even conceding that this plan may not be the very acme of a completion of this huge structure, planned by an Arnolfo, a Giotto, and Brunelleschi, still it is evident that the German artist has gone the right way towards its realization.

Salzburg, Austria.—H. R. H. Prince John of Austria has caused to be published one hundred and fourteen lithograph plates, representing mediæval structures of the duchy and city of Salzburg. As even in Styria, some of the finest *high* mediæval (*hoch-mittelaltrigen*) structures have been demolished for railway purposes, the above undertaking is the more meritorious.

Sovereigns' Residences on the Continent.—As the question of royal abodes abroad compared with those of our sovereign has been repeatedly mooted of late, we subjoin a list of some of the royal residences on the continent. The Emperor of Austria possesses, besides the huge mansion called *die Burg*, at Vienna, the châteaux of Schönbrunn and Laxenburg, both with parks of miles in extent. His Majesty possesses one or two castles, appertaining to his private estates, in Upper Austria; besides which, there are in every of the provincial capitals, the once royal residences of the former sovereigns: at Milan (Monza), at Pesth, Prague, Brünn, Grätz, &c. The King of Prussia has two palaces at Berlin (one a huge pile of buildings), besides Charlottenburg, and Sans-souci; in Silesia, Erdmannsdorf; on the Rhine, Stolzenfels. The Grand Duke of Saxe-Weimar has, besides the palace at Weimar, the *Lustschloss* (pleasure-palace) of Belvedere; then Tiefurth, Kromsdorf, Ettersburg, and Dornburg. Although the latter ones cannot be properly called *huge*, they are so, comparing Weimar with England, the population of the former being about *one-half* of that of London.

Amongst the royal residences in France, all hitherto *enumerators* have omitted *Compiegne*, one of the finest palaces imaginable; on whose decoration, pictures, and furniture, Napoleon spent twenty millions of francs.

Mr. Lepsius.—H. M. the King of Prussia has named the above deep searcher of Egyptian antiquities, Regius Professor of the University of Berlin, at a salary of 2,000 dollars, equivalent to 600*l.* a year in London, besides an equal sum, which he may and will derive from his lectures. The king also conferred on him the knighthood of the Red Eagle of Prussia.

MISS COUTTS' CHURCH IN WESTMINSTER.

THE fact, that Miss Burdett Coutts had devoted the sum of 30,000*l.*, through the Bishop of London, to the erection and endowment of a church, with parsonage-house and schools, in Westminster, has been known for some time. The noble intention has been held in abeyance through circumstances, but will now be speedily carried out. A site has been purchased in Rochester-row, and Mr. Ferrey has prepared plans in accordance with Miss Coutts' views. In the first instance, the sum of 5,000*l.* only was set apart for the church, and 3,000*l.* for schools and parsonage; the endowment, purchase of site, &c., requiring the remainder.

When, however, it was represented to the founder that with this sum comparatively little could be done, Miss Coutts at once extended the commission, and desired that every thing should be executed in the best manner. The style of the design fixed on is decorated; the roof will be covered with lead, and the woodwork will be of oak.

NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

HER MAJESTY has given 100*l.*, and the Prince Consort 50*l.*, towards the erection of the contemplated Infirmary at Windsor in connection with the Windsor Royal Dispensary. The subscribers have resolved to proceed.——The light of public notice shed upon the dark doings of a select portion of the Halstead Vestry has happily dispelled the darkness at once, and the town is to be forthwith placed in its proper light, amongst the illuminated congregations of the 19th century. Other places to be similarly improved are Alcester, which is to be lighted with gas, and Southport, with naptha.—— Government, it is said, has just concluded the purchase of about fourteen acres of land for 25,000*l.* on the east side of Birmingham, for the erection of the contemplated great central barrack for England. In *Aris's Gazette*, the site selected is said to be about half way between Birmingham and the Collieries, and the report that Government had preferred a site on the Saddley side of Birmingham, is declared to be incorrect. These barracks, at all events, are to be so situated, that troops may be sent thence, by railway, to any part of England in a few hours, on intimation by electric telegraph, which is to be brought here also, in the heart as it were of the empire, into a common centre, communicating with all parts of the country by extensions along every line of rail that may be made. The barracks are to be the largest yet built.——The inhabitants of Birmingham are preparing a numerously subscribed memorial to the Lords of the Treasury, praying for the removal of the duties on foreign copper ore.——Most of the nailers who had struck work in the vicinity of Dudley and Kingswinford, have resumed their occupation. A rise has been given by some nailers on small work, but the large Dudley masters have not agreed to the scale.——Many of the contracts for the execution of the Hull General Cemetery, have been let. Barrel drains are being formed to empty themselves into a large tank or reservoir, which in its turn is to be emptied into the Cottingham drain. Much of the underground work, it is expected, will be completed before the winter sets in.——The contractors for the Sunderland Docks are proceeding rapidly with the construction of the groynes, near the pier. The valuation of the dilapidated and other property in the way of the entrances and approaches to the docks, is being made, and an early completion of the work is anticipated.——A second importation of Irish marble (thirty blocks) to the metropolis is announced, in furtherance of the experiment recommended by his Royal Highness the Prince Consort, as president of the Society of Arts. ——In the week ending 8th instant, 150,268 persons were employed on public works in Ireland, chiefly in Clare, Roscommon, Limerick, Galway, Mayo, and Tipperary.

ROMAN CEMENT IN COLD WEATHER.—We omitted by accident to mention at the foot of an inquiry which appeared, that if Roman cement be mixed with hot water it sets more quickly, and is not injured.

To learn about PDF Compression and OCR go to our website